

# Message from the Commandant

Welcome to our 21st Century Preview! Within these pages you will learn about a dynamic and exciting organization composed of people dedicated to providing crucial services to their nation and humanity!

Most Americans associate the Coast Guard with rescuing helpless victims from major floods, hurricanes and sinking boats. Most people have heard tales of hoisting shipwreck survivors from remote areas or from the midst of tumultuous seas and wicked storms. However, most people are surprised to learn just how big the Coast Guards job really is. Every American is a Coast Guard customer.

We serve farmers by keeping shipping lanes open for barges that carry their goods to market. We serve factory workers by inspecting the ships that haul the raw materials that keep Americas economic furnaces burning and the subsequent transport of finished products to the rest of the world. Each winter, we serve homeowners by using Coast Guard icebreakers to break channels in frozen lakes and rivers for the safe passage of vessels carrying heating fuel. We serve our environment by enforcing safety programs designed to ensure that petroleum ends up in peoples gas tanks, not on a beach. We serve our children by interdicting drug smugglers far from our nations streets and playgrounds.

The Coast Guard has a real, albeit sometimes behind the scenes, impact on every Americans life. The Coast Guard is at sea every day. We protect U.S. fisheries from foreign poachers and over-fishing. We rescue boatloads of illegal migrants at sea often saving them from starvation and drowning. As a unique instrument of national security, our units complement U.S. Navy forces. By sharing our expertise with foreign coast guards, we foster stability and support among many nations throughout the world.

The Coast Guard provides value to America every day — throughout the year. We provide economic vitality. We enforce laws and treaties. We ensure safe and efficient marine transportation. We protect natural resources. We safeguard our nations borders, and we provide for the national defense. We save American lives every day.

I invite you to read this 21st Century Preview thoroughly, as it reflects our efforts to achieve our five enduring strategic goals: maritime safety, protection of natural resources, maritime mobility, maritime security and national defense. Every mission we undertake, whether enforcing laws or rescuing mariners, is focused on elements of these five outcomes. In short, service to our nation and its citizens is the reason we are in business.

Your military, multi-mission, maritime service the U.S. Coast

Guard provides benefits to every American, every hour of every day. Each tax dollar invested in the Coast Guard is returned many times over in direct, measurable ways. The Coast Guard has been called the best bargain in the federal government. Thats true. I guarantee it.

*Admiral James M. Loy, Commandant*



## ABOUT THE COMMANDANT

Adm. James M. Loy assumed the duties of the 21st Commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard in May 1998. He was nominated to the position while serving as chief of staff for Coast Guard Headquarters.

He entered the Coast Guard in 1964 following graduation from the U.S. Coast Guard Academy with a Bachelor of Science degree in general engineering. He attended postgraduate school at Wesleyan University and the University of Rhode Island, earning masters degrees in history/government and public administration. He attended the Industrial College of the Armed Forces at Fort Leslie J. McNair in Washington, DC, and also served as an intern at the John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University.

Loy has commanded four Coast Guard cutters, including the CGC Valiant and CGC Midgett. As the commanding officer of CGC Point Lomas in Vietnam, he commanded 43 combat patrols. He has also served in various flag assignments including Commander, Atlantic Area and Commander, U.S. Maritime Defense Zone Atlantic; Commander, Eighth Coast Guard District; and as Chief, Office of Personnel and Training at Coast Guard Headquarters.

His military decorations include four Coast Guard Distinguished Service Medals, the Defense Superior Service Medal, two Legion of Merit awards, the Bronze Star with Combat V, the Meritorious Service Medal, five Coast Guard Commendation Medals, the Coast Guard Achievement Medal, Combat Action Ribbon and other unit and campaign awards.